

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 were pending in the application. No claims have been amended or canceled. New claims 10-12 have been added. Support for the new claims can be found, e.g., on page 3, lines 11-16 of the present application. Therefore, claims 1-12 are now pending in the present application.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner is sincerely thanked for indicating that claims 1-9 are allowed.

New Claims

In order to provide more complete coverage of the subject matter disclosed in the present application, Applicants have added new claims 10-12. New claim 10 further clarifies the range of wavelengths over which the illuminating optical system is color-corrected. New claims 11 and 12 further limit a dimension of the measurement spot generated by the refractive illuminating optical system. New claims 10-12 are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance, and favorable reconsideration is requested.

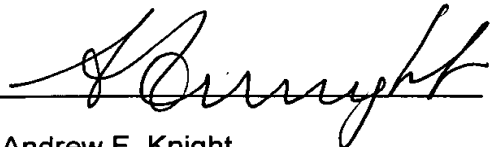
The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

11/5/03

By



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Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 19-0741 for any such fees.